

ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ADR PANELS
including Judicial Arbitration, Mediation, Neutral Evaluation, and Private Arbitration

1. APPLICANT:

Applicant's Name: Thomas A. Cohen
Firm Name: Law Offices of Thomas A. Cohen
Address: 639 Front St., 4th floor
City/State/Zip: San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 777-1997 **Fax:** (415) 777-1990
Email: tomcohen@bigfoot.com

2. PANEL REQUEST: *(All applicants are requested to serve as Judicial Arbitrators)*

Check each panel for which you are applying:

☒ Judicial Arbitration ☒ Mediation ☒ Neutral Evaluation ☒ Private Arbitration

3. EDUCATION:

<u>Dates (from-to)</u>	<u>College/University/Law School</u>	<u>Degree Obtained</u>
1964-1968	Colorado College	B.A.
1968-1969	New York University (Film/TV)	---
1973-1974	U.C. Berkeley (Visual Design)	M.A.
1988-1989	USF School of Law	---
1989-1991	U.C. Hastings School of Law	J.D.

4. LEGAL EXPERIENCE: State Bar No. 154581 Date Admitted: 1991

- A. Are you a member in good standing of the State Bar of California? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- B. Are you a retired judicial officer? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Please describe when/where you last served as a judicial officer: _____
- C. Are you actively engaged in the practice of law at this time? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If not, are you retired from practice? _____ Date retired: _____
If your license is presently inactive, please explain: _____
- D. Are you currently active in litigation practice? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Approximately what percentage of your practice involves litigation? 85%
- E. If your practice includes personal injury litigation, approximately what percentage of your practice involves the representation of: plaintiffs 80% ; of defendants 20%
- F. How many of the following have you personally handled as attorney of record in the past five years? Jury Trials 1; Court Trials 2; Mediations 20+/-; Arbitrations 1;
- G. Describe any legal publications or teaching you have done: Moot Court instructor—U.C. Berkeley (Boalt Hall) 1998 and 1999; Note, Simplified Syndication for Stage and Screen, COMM/ENT (Hastings Communication and Entertainment Law Journal) 13:3.

5. ADR TRAINING and EXPERIENCE

Course Title	Sponsoring Organization	Hours of Credit	Dates
Business Mediation Skills (Ron Kelly)	BASF	40	9/2003
Effective Negotiation and Settlement (Maude Prevere)	BASF	7	5/1996

- A. Number of years experience as: mediator 1; arbitrator 0; neutral evaluator 0;
- B. List all other court-connected ADR panels of which you are a member, specifying the processes for which you have qualified: San Francisco Superior Court (Early Settlement Program; Voluntary Early Mediation); Marin Superior Court (Arbitrator and Settlement Panelist); Contra Costa Superior and First District Court of Appeal (pending); Kaiser Permanente (Neutral Arbitrator).
- C. State the name(s) of any organization(s) through which you have provided ADR services during the past five years, giving the dates and the services you provided:
San Francisco Superior Court—2003—Settlement Panelist
Marin Superior Court—2003-- Settlement Panelist
- D. Describe the subject matter of five disputes in which you served as the ADR provider in the past 5 years, including the dates of service, the process and if you were sole or co-provider.
 1. Breach of contract (entertainment) July 2001 sole mediator
 2. Breach of contract (entertainment) December 2002 sole mediator
 3. Breach of Fiduciary Duty July 2003 co-mediator
 4. Property easement dispute July 2003 co-mediator
 5. Breach of contract (construction) September 2003 co-mediator
- E. Is your ADR style best described as _____ facilitative or _____ evaluative/directive?
Both. I prefer to start with facilitative, but become more evaluative as necessary.
- F. Describe any ADR related publications or training you have done: None.
- G. Set forth your hourly fee or fee schedule, including any sliding scale or pro bono provisions.
Attach a copy of your fee agreement. *(Please note: Judicial arbitrators waive compensation for the first three (3) hours of hearing time in Alameda County and all ADR panelists are requested to accept at least three (3) Judicial arbitration cases per year).*
\$200 per hour. Sliding scale in appropriate cases.

6. AVAILABILITY/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. List any languages, other than English, in which you are able to conduct ADR proceedings:
None
- B. Please state any special bi-cultural/multi-cultural capabilities or familiarity you possess:
None
- C. You are available to conduct ADR conferences: X in your office; X at counsel's office; X other (please describe: elsewhere by mutual agreement)
- D. You are available to conduct ADR proceedings: X during regular office hours;
X evenings by appointment; X weekends by prior arrangement;
- E. Please describe any requirements you have for ADR participants such as submission of copies of pleadings, briefs, declarations in lieu of testimony, etc.: Prefer a brief mediation statement with critical disputed exhibits, if any.

7. SUBJECT MATTER DESIGNATION

Please check each area below in which you are qualified by training/experience to provide ADR services, indicating the percentage it represents of your law practice, if any, and the ADR process(es) which you are prepared to offer in that area:

Case Type Accepted	% of Practice	Judicial Arb.	Mediation	Neutral Eval.	Private Arb.
Bankruptcy		X	X		X
Business/Corp.		X	X		X
Civil Rights		X	X		X
Collections		X	X		X
Construction		X	X		X
Contracts		X	X	X	X
Elder law/abuse		X	X		X
Employment		X	X		X
-Discrimination		X	X		X
-Harassment		X	X		X
-Termination		X	X		X
Environmental		X	X		X
Fraud		X	X	X	X
False Imprison.		X	X		X
Family Law					
HO Ass'n		X	X		X
Insurance Cov.		X	X		X
Intellect. Property	15	X	X	X	X
Landlord-Tenant		X	X		X
Legal Malpractice		X	X		X
Maritime					
Med Malpractice		X	X		X
Partnership		X	X	X	X
P.I. – Auto		X	X		X
P.I. – Other	5	X	X		X
Premises Liability		X	X		X
Probate/Trust		X	X		X
Product Liab.	15	X	X	X	X
Real Property	15	X	X	X	X
Securities		X	X		X
Tax		X	X		X
Toxic Torts		X	X		X
Wrongful Death		X	X		X
Other: Privacy	15	X	X	X	X
Class Action/17200	40	X	X	X	X

MEDIATION FEE AGREEMENT

Case Name: _____ Case #: _____

We, the undersigned PARTIES, have voluntarily agreed to submit our dispute as referenced above to Mediation and have agreed that Thomas A. Cohen shall serve as Mediator.

1. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

The PARTIES understand and agree that mediation is voluntary and that any party may end participation in the process at any time. The PARTIES understand that the Mediator is a licensed attorney. However, the Mediator will not provide the PARTIES with legal advice nor represent the interests of any party as an attorney. The services of the Mediator are strictly limited to the mediation process. The PARTIES understand that each has the right to have an attorney present during the mediation and may consult an attorney regarding their legal rights and obligations at any time.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDIATION PROCESS

Mediation is a voluntary, informal, confidential process in which the Mediator assists the parties in communicating with each other, helps the parties clarify facts, identifies legal issues, and explores various options designed to lead to the resolution of the dispute.

The parties agree that the purpose of Mediation is to enter into a mutually acceptable agreement to resolve all relevant issues. Any agreement reached as a result of the Mediation shall be in writing, and shall be binding on the parties if the parties agree in writing that it shall be binding. A binding agreement may be entered in the appropriate court as an enforceable Judgment.

The parties understand and agree that the mediation proceedings shall be confidential and cannot be used in any legal proceeding unless the Parties have entered into a written agreement that specifies it is binding. The Parties and Mediator acknowledge that the provisions of California Evidence Code 1115 through 1128 apply to this mediation.

3. FEES FOR SERVICE

It is understood and acknowledged that the fees for the Mediator's services are subject to negotiation and agreement by the Mediator and the parties (with the exception of Parties found eligible for indigent or modest means service). The Mediator's hourly rate is \$200, payable by the parties in equal percentage. Fees are immediately due and payable upon receipt of an itemized invoice. An initial refundable retainer in the amount of \$200 per party is due seven days in advance of the Mediation. If the mediation hearing is cancelled less than 72 hours prior to the date set, 50% of the retainer shall be forfeited by each party. All checks shall be made payable to: Thomas A. Cohen.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We hereby declare that we have read, understood and agreed to the foregoing terms for Mediation and have been provided with a copy of this agreement.

Party Signature, Dated: _____

Party Signature, Dated: _____

Attorney Signature, Dated: _____

Attorney Signature, Dated: _____